

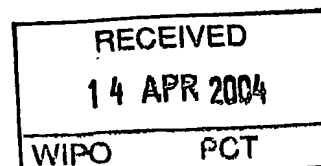


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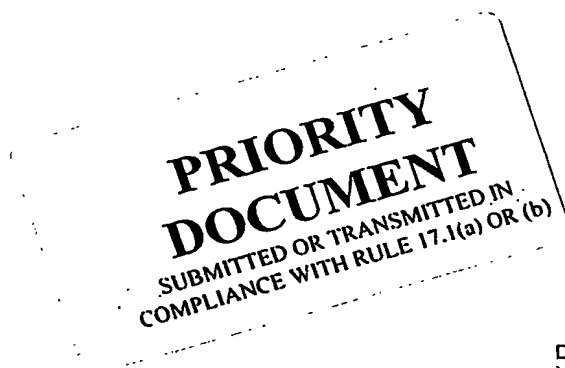
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Der Präsident des Europäischen Patentamts;  
Im Auftrag

For the President of the European Patent Office

Le Président de l'Office européen des brevets  
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If no title is shown please refer to the description.  
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Thermosetting powder compositions for coatings

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## Thermosetting Powder Compositions for Coatings

5 The present invention relates to thermosetting powder compositions comprising a mixture of an isophthalic acid rich carboxyl functionalised polyester, containing linear chain aliphatic diols, along with a  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide group containing cross-linking agent.

10 The invention also relates to the use of said compositions for the preparation of powdered paints and varnishes for the making of coatings and to coatings obtained therewith.

Thermosetting powder compositions are well known in the art and are widely used as paints and varnishes for coating the most various articles. The advantages of these powder coatings are numerous; on the one hand, the problems associated with solvents are completely eliminated, and on the other hand, the powders are used without any loss since only the powder in direct contact with the substrate is retained on the article, the excess powder being, in principle, entirely recoverable and reusable. For these and other reasons, the powder coating compositions are preferred to coating compositions in the form of solutions in organic solvents.

20 Thermosetting powder compositions have already been widely used in the coating of domestic electrical appliances, automobile industry accessories, and the like. They generally contain a thermosetting organic binder, fillers, pigments, catalysts and various additives used to adapt their properties to their intended use.

There are various types of thermosetting powder compositions. The best known compositions contain either a mixture of carboxyl group-containing polymers, such as a carboxyl group-containing polyester or polyacrylate, and epoxy compounds, such as triglycidyl isocyanurate, glycidyl group-containing acrylic copolymers or  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamides or a mixture of hydroxyl group-containing polymers, most often a hydroxyl group-containing polyester, with blocked or non-blocked isocyanates, melamine resins, and the like.

30 The carboxyl group-containing or the hydroxyl group-containing polyesters suitable for use in the preparation of powdered varnishes and paints have already been described in numerous publications such as articles and patents.

These polyesters are usually prepared from aromatic dicarboxylic acids, mainly terephthalic acid and isophthalic acid and optionally a minor proportion of aliphatic or cycloaliphatic dicarboxylic acids, and from various polyols such as ethylene glycol, neopentyl glycol, 1,6-hexanediol, trimethylolpropane, and the like.

35 These polyesters based on aromatic dicarboxylic acids, when they are used with an appropriate cross-linking agent, provide thermosetting compositions giving paint and

varnish coatings possessing good properties, both as regards their appearance and as regards their mechanical properties such as impact resistance, flexibility, etc.

Some of these polyesters and the powders derived from them often are used because of their remarkable weatherability characteristics. These polyesters mostly are derived from isophthalic acid, being the most important acid constituent among others and are commonly used with triglycidyl isocyanurate (TGIC) as the cross-linking agent. Yet, the coatings obtained from these powders, though proving outstanding weatherability, do not have any flexibility at all.

Moreover, TGIC presents problems of health and security. Indeed, TGIC is relatively toxic (Rat Oral LD50 of 0,4 g/kg) and is mutagenic according to the Ames Mutagenicity Test.

As a non toxic alternative to TGIC,  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamides  $\beta$ -(HAA) have been used for the cross-linking of powders containing carboxyl-bearing polyesters. But the use of  $\beta$ -(HAA) brings about new problems due to its high reactivity and to the fact that water is liberated during its reaction with carboxyl groups.

Powder paints comprising as a binder a carboxylic acid group containing polyester and a  $\beta$ -(HAA) group containing cross-linking agent, produce water upon curing, thus creating bubbles in the coating especially when relatively thick layers are applied. Gas bubbles remaining in the coating reduce the adherence and the protective effect of the coating. In order to reduce or even avoid these gas bubbles remaining in the coating, two solutions, being either reducing the melt viscosity of the powder, or slackening the reactivity of the binder system can be envisaged. Yet, incorporation of considerable amounts of plasticising constituents in the binder system often reduces outdoor durability of the cured paint. Besides, from literature it is known that the esterification reaction of a resin acid group with a hydroxyl group of the  $\beta$ -(HAA) group containing hardener neither can be accelerated nor can be slowed down, except from respectively increasing or decreasing the resin acid number along with the stoichiometric amount of the  $\beta$ -(HAA) group containing compound.

Some solutions have been sought for resolving these problems appearing with the use of  $\beta$ -(HAA), and at the same time, for resolving the problems of lack of flexibility of coatings made from powders containing isophthalic-rich polyesters. EP 649890 claims powder coating compositions comprising a  $\beta$ -(HAA) cross-linking agent and an acid functional polyester having an acid number ranging from 15 through 70 mg KOH/g which is substantially based on dicarboxylic acid units containing 80 to 100% mole of isophthalic acid, on glycols containing at least 50%

mole of branched aliphatic glycols with at least 4 carbon atoms, at most 50% mole of a linear aliphatic diol with less than 4 carbon atoms and/or cycloaliphatic diols, 0 to 10% mole of a linear aliphatic diol with at least 4 carbon atoms and on monomers

having a functionality of at least three, in an amount of up to 8% mole based on the total amount of dicarboxylic acids and glycols.

As appears from the examples, only a very few powders of this invention gives a good flow on melting, which results in coatings having a poor surface appearance.

5 A yet sophisticated way to flexibilise thermosetting powder coating compositions derived from carboxyl functional isophthalic acid rich amorphous polyesters is the use of semi-crystalline acid functional polyesters as co-reactable part of the carboxylic acid amorphous resin in a binder along with a polyepoxy compound or a  $\beta$ -(HAA), such as claimed in e.g. WO 91/14745. A careful selection of the proper combination of  
10 amorphous and semi-crystalline resins, respectively, enables for flexible and weatherable powder coating compositions derived from carboxyl functional isophthalic acid rich polyesters, as far as particular process conditions for mixing, extrusion and grinding are exercised and appropriate storage conditions of the powder thus obtained, are considered. Anyway, the solution presented in this invention to mix a  
15 semi-crystalline acid functional polyesters with a carboxyl functional amorphous polyester represents a technical complication.

In patent application EP 668.895, thermosetting powders are described which comprise a carboxyl group-containing polyester and a  $\beta$ -(HAA). The polyester may comprise isophthalic or terephthalic acid and has a functionality less than 2, obtained  
20 by the addition in the polyester of monofunctional acids or alcohols. Due to the low functionality of the polyester, its reactivity is reduced, which brings about a better flow during the melting of the powder on the substrate. Nevertheless, as the polyester has some non-reactive end groups, which do not participate in the cross-linking reaction during the formation of the coating, the latter has a reduced solvent resistance and a  
25 reduced flexibility.

In conclusion it can be seen that the various powdered compositions which have been proposed today for outdoor application where an outstanding weatherability along with flexibility is required, and which do not make use of toxic cross-linking agents, all are characterised by one or more drawbacks or limitations. There is thus  
30 still a need for powdered thermosetting compositions capable of producing coatings proving an outstanding weatherability and a good flexibility and not exhibiting the shortcomings of prior art.

It now has been surprisingly found that, upon application and curing, the powder coating compositions, comprising the binder of the present invention, - based  
35 on a carboxylic acid group containing amorphous isophthalic acid/linear chain aliphatic diol rich polyester in combination with a  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide group containing cross-linking agent - give paint films proving outstanding degassing properties at a film thickness of up to about 200  $\mu$ m for a curing time of from

15 seconds to 50 minutes at curing temperatures from 140 to 250°C. Moreover, the powdered thermosetting compositions of the invention produce coatings proving very smooth coatings, exhibiting good outdoor durability and flexibility, without any defects possibly originated from volatile compounds.

5 The applicant neither is aware of any experimental evidence proving an unaffected outdoor durability of the coatings obtained from powder coating compositions comprising linear chain aliphatic diol containing isophthalic acid rich polyesters, nor of the unexpected effect of said resins on the degassing properties of the paint films derived from powder formulations containing these resins in  
10 combination with a  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide cross-linking agent.

Thus, according to the present invention, there are provided new powdered thermosetting compositions for coatings, characterised in that they consist of:

- a) a carboxylic acid group containing amorphous polyester having an acid  
15 number of from 12 to 34 mg KOH/g and prepared from a polyacid constituent comprising from 85 to 100% mole of isophthalic acid and from 0 to 15% mole of another aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic polyacid, and of a polyol constituent comprising from 15 to 65% mole of one or more linear chain aliphatic C4 - C16 diol, from 35 to 85% mole of neopentyl glycol, from 0 to 30 % mole of another linear chain aliphatic and/or cycloaliphatic diol and from  
20 0 to 5% mole of a polyol with 3 or more hydroxyl groups.
- b) a cross-linking agent having at least two  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide groups.

It has been found that polyesters containing more than 80 % mole of isophthalic acid and more than 10 % mole to 65 % mole of linear chains aliphatic C4-C16 diol, along with the other constituents of the polyester, already give good coatings  
25 when crosslinked with  $\beta$ -(HAA).

Preferably, the amount of isophthalic acid is from 85 to 100% mole on all the acids in the polyester. Preferably also, the amount of the linear chain aliphatic C4-C16 diol is of from 15 to 65 % mole on all the polyols in the polyester. Neopentyl glycol hydroxypivalate is not used as polyol according to the present invention.

30 The carboxyl functional amorphous polyester of the present invention further is characterised by:

- an acid number from 12 to 34 mg KOH/g
- a number averaged molecular weight ranging from 2500 to 8600, preferably from 3300 to 7500 as measured by gel permeation chromatography (GPC)
- 35 - a glass transition temperature  $T_g$  from 40 to 80°C and preferably from 56 to 70°C as measured by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) according to ASTM D3418 with a heating gradient of 20°C per minute

an ICI (cone/plate) viscosity accordingly to ASTM D4287, measured at 200°C ranging from 5 to 15000 mPa.s

The acid constituent of the amorphous polyester a) according to the present invention, is for 85 to 100% mole composed of isophthalic acid and for 0 to 15% mole of another polyacid constituent selected from one or more aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic polyacids, such as fumaric acid, maleic acid, phthalic acid, terephthalic acid, 1,4-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, 1,3-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, 1,2-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, succinic acid, adipic acid, glutaric acid, pimelic acid, suberic acid, azelaic acid, sebacic acid, 1,12-dodecanedioic acid, trimellitic acid or pyromellitic acid, etc., or the corresponding anhydrides.

The glycol constituent of the amorphous polyester a) according to the present invention, is for 15 to 65% mole composed of a linear chain aliphatic C4-C16 diol such as 1,4-butanediol, 1,5-pentanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, 1,7-heptanediol, 1,8-octanediol, 1,9-nonanediol, 1,10-decanediol, 1,12-dodecanediol, 1,14-tetradecanediol, 1,16-hexadecanediol, used in a mixture or alone. The glycol constituent of this polyester also comprises 35 to 85% mole of neopentyl glycol and for 0 to 30% mole and preferably for 0 to 20% mole of another polyol constituent selected from one or more linear chain aliphatic or cycloaliphatic polyol such as ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, 1,4-cyclohexanediol, 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol, hydrogenated Bisphenol A. The glycol constituent also comprises 0 to 5% mole of a polyol having 3 or more hydroxyl groups such as trimethylolpropane, ditrimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol, etc.

Preferably, the polyester according to the present invention is composed of polycarboxylic acid units containing from 85 to 100% mole of isophthalic acid, from 0 to 15% mole of terephthalic acid and/or 1,4-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, and of polyol constituents containing from 15 to 65% mole of linear chain aliphatic C4-C16 diol, preferably 1,6-hexanediol, from 35 to 85% mole of neopentyl glycol, from 0 to 30% mole of ethylene glycol, and 0 to 5% mole of trimethylolpropane.

The carboxylic acid group containing amorphous polyester, according to the present invention, is prepared using conventional esterification techniques well known in the art. The polyester is prepared according to a procedure consisting of one or more reaction steps.

For the preparation of these polyesters, a conventional reactor equipped with a stirrer, an inert gas (nitrogen) inlet, a thermocouple, a distillation column connected to a water-cooled condenser, a water separator and a vacuum connection tube is used.

The esterification conditions used to prepare the polyesters are conventional, namely a standard esterification catalyst, such as dibutyltin oxide, dibutyltin dilaurate, n-butyltin trioctoate, sulphuric acid or a sulphonic acid, tetraisopropyl titanate or tetra-n-butyl titanate can be used in an amount from 0.05 to 1.50% by

weight of the reactants and optionally, colour stabilisers, for example, phenolic antioxidants such as Irganox 1010 (Ciba) or phosphonite- and phosphite-type stabilisers such as tributylphosphite, can be added in an amount from 0 to 1% by weight of the reactants.

5 Polyesterification is generally carried out at a temperature which is gradually increased from 130°C to about 190 to 250°C, first under normal pressure, then, when necessary, under reduced pressure at the end of each process step, while maintaining these operating conditions until a polyester is obtained, which has the desired hydroxyl and/or acid number. The degree of esterification is followed by determining  
10 the amount of water formed in the course of the reaction and the properties of the obtained polyester, for example the hydroxyl number, the acid number, the molecular weight or the viscosity.

The carboxyl group containing amorphous polyester, as described above, is part of a binder system along with a  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide group containing cross-linking  
15 agent, in the preparation of powder coating compositions for use as paint or clear lacquer.

Suitable  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide cross-linking agents are those which contain at least two bis( $\beta$ -hydroxyalkyl)amide groups. Commercial products are available, such as N,N,N',N'-tetrakis-(2-hydroxyethyl)-adipamide, known under the tradename Primid  
20 XL-552 and N,N,N',N'-tetrakis-(2-hydroxypropyl)-adipamide, known under the tradename Primid GM1260 for example. Other  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide are described in the literature, for example those mentioned in the patents US-A-4727111, US-A-4788255, US-A-4076917, or in the patent applications EP-A-322834 and EP-A-473380.

25 The  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide group containing cross-linking agent described herein above is used in an amount from 0.25 to 1.40 preferably from 0.60 to 1.05 equivalent of carboxyl group present in the amorphous polyester per equivalent of  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkyl groups.

In addition to the essential components described above, compositions within  
30 the scope of the present invention can also include flow control agents such as Resiflow PV5 (Worlee), Modaflow (Monsanto), Acronal 4F (BASF), etc., and degassing agents such as benzoin (BASF) etc. To the formulation UV-light absorbers such as Tinuvin 900 (Ciba), hindered amine light stabilisers represented by Tinuvin 144 (Ciba), other stabilising agents such as Tinuvin 312 and 1130 (Ciba), antioxidants such as  
35 Irganox 1010 (Ciba) and stabilisers from the phosphonite or phosphite type can be added.

Both, pigmented systems as well as clear lacquers can be prepared.



A variety of dyes and pigments can be utilised in the composition of this invention. Examples of useful pigments and dyes are: metallic oxides such as titaniumdioxide, ironoxide, zincoxide and the like, metal hydroxides, metal powders, sulphides, sulphates, carbonates, silicates such as ammoniumsilicate, carbon black, talc, china clay, barytes, iron blues, leadblues, organic reds, organic maroons and the like.

The components of the composition according to the invention may be mixed by dry blending in a mixer or blender (e.g. drum mixer). The premix is then homogenised at temperatures ranging from 70 to 150°C in a single screw extruder such as the BUSS-Ko-Kneter or a double screw extruder such as the PRISM or APV. The extrudate, when cooled down, is grounded to a powder with a particle size ranging from 10 to 150 µm. The powdered composition may be deposited on the substrate by use of a powder gun such as an electrostatic CORONA gun or TRIBO gun. On the other hand, well-known methods of powder deposition such as the fluidised bed technique can be used. After deposition the powder is heated to a temperature between 140 and 250°C, causing the particles to flow and fuse together to form a smooth, uniform, continuous, uncratered coating on the substrate surface.

The following examples are submitted for a better understanding of the invention without being restricted thereto.

#### Example 1

A mixture of 338.8 parts of neopentyl glycol, 84.7 parts of 1,6-hexanediol and 5.1 parts of trimethylolpropane is placed in a reactor as for Example 1. At a temperature of 130°C, 120.5 parts of terephthalic acid, 481.9 parts of isophthalic acid and 2.5 parts of n-butyltintriocatoate are added. The reaction is continued at 220°C under atmospheric pressure until about 95% of the theoretical amount of water is distilled and a transparent hydroxyl functionalised prepolymer with following characteristics is obtained:

AN	9 mg KOH/g
OHN	58 mg KOH/g

To the first step prepolymer standing at 200°C, 110.9 parts of Isophthalic acid are added. Thereupon, the mixture is gradually heated to 230°C. After a 2 hours period at 230°C and when the reaction mixture is transparent, 0.9 parts of tributylphosphite are added and a vacuum of 50 mm Hg is gradually applied. After 3 hours at 230°C and 50 mm Hg, following characteristics are obtained:

AN	33 mg KOH/g
OHN	4 mg KOH/g
ICI <sup>200°C</sup> (cone/plate)	2500 mPa.s
Tg (DSC, 20°/min)	57°C

Adopting the procedure of Example 1, but in one step alone, as series of examples, accordingly the present invention, (Ex. 2 - Ex. 5) were prepared. The monomer composition as well as the resin characteristics are given in table 1.

Table 1

	Ex.2	Ex.3	Ex.4	Ex. 5
IPA	766.7	712.4	745.1	704.3
NPG	193.3	343.2	262.2	307.0
EG	112.1		66.2	
HD	81.2	85.8	75.0	131.6
AN	30	31	30	21
ICI viscosity mPa.s	1500	1700	2200	4500
Tg. °C	56	57	57	57

In this table the different compounds used for the preparation of the polyesters according to the present invention and the characterisation of the polyesters are designated by the following abbreviations:

10	NPG	neopentyl glycol
	EG	ethylene glycol
	HD	1,6-hexanediol
	IPA	isophthalic acid
	AN	acid number, mg KOH/g
15	OHN	hydroxyl number, mg KOH/g
	ICI viscosity	cone/plate viscosity, measured at 200°C
	Tg	glass transition temperature (DSC, 20°C/minute)

Example 6:

20 The polyesters as illustrated above, are then formulated to a powder accordingly to one of the formulations as mentioned below.

Formulation A		Formulation B	
White paint formulation		Brown paint formulation	
Binder	69.06	Binder	78.33
Kronos 2310	29.60	Bayferrox 130	4.44
Resiflow PV5	0.99	Bayferrox 3950	13.80
Benzoin	0.35	Carbon Black FW2	1.09
		Resiflow PV5	0.99
		Benzoin	0.35

The powders are prepared first by dry blending of the different components and then by homogenisation in the melt using a PRISM 16 mm L/D 15/1 twin screw extruder at an extrusion temperature of 85°C. The homogenised mix is then cooled and grinded in an Alpine. Subsequently the powder is sieved to obtain a particle size between 10 and 110 µm. The powder thus obtained is deposited on cold rolled steel with a thickness of 0.8 mm, by electrostatic deposition using the GEMA - Volstatic PCG 1 spraygun. At a film thickness of about 80 µm the panels are transferred to an air-ventilated oven, where curing proceeds for 15 minutes at a temperature of 200°C. The paint characteristics for the finished coatings obtained from the polyesters of the present invention (Ex. 1 to Ex.5) as well as from two commercial polyesters, Crylcoat 7617 and Crylcoat 7642, standard - Primid XL552 (95/5)- resins for respectively outdoor and superdurable applications, and illustrated by way of comparison, are given in table 2. Crylcoat 7617 is mainly composed of terephthalic acid and neopentyl glycol and has an AN of 30 mg KOH/g. Crylcoat 7642 is purely composed of isophthalic acid and of neopentyl glycol and has an AN of 35 mg KOH/g.

In this table:

Column 1 : indicates the identification number of the formulation

Column 2 : indicates the type of formulation

20 A = white (RAL9010)

B = medium brown (RAL8014)

Column 3 : indicates the type and quantity of the polyester resin used in the formulation

Column 4 : indicates the type and quantity of β-hydroxyalkylamide cross-linker :

25 XL552 = Primid XL552 (EMS) = N,N,N',N'-tetrakis-(2-hydroxyethyl)-adipamide

Column 5 : indicates the 60° gloss, measured according to ASTM D523

Column 6 : indicates the direct impact strength according to ASTM D2794. The highest impact which does not crack the coating is recorded in kg.cm.

30 Column 7 : indicates the reverse impact strength according to ASTM D2794. The highest impact which does not crack the coating is recorded in kg.cm.

Column 8 : indicates the Erichsen slow embossing according to ISO 1520. The highest penetration which does not crack the coating is recorded in mm.

Table 2 : Powder Composition

Example	Formula tion	Polyester	Hardener	Gloss	Direct Impact	Reverse Impact	Erichsen Slow Embossing
7	A	1 (95)	XL552 (5)	96	80	60	9.2
8	A	2 (95)	XL552 (5)	92	100	80	9.3
9	B	2 (95)	XL552 (5)	94	80	80	9.0
10	A	3 (95)	XL552 (5)	95	60	60	8.7
11	B	3 (95)	XL552 (5)	97	60	40	9.2
12	A	4 (95)	XL552 (5)	91	80	80	8.7
13	B	4 (95)	XL552 (5)	90	80	60	9.1
14	A	5(96.5)	XL552 (3.5)	90	80	60	8.6
15	B	CC7617 (95)	XL552 (5)	90	120	120	9.2
16	B	CC7642 (95)	XL552 (5)	91	0	0	3.2

As clearly appears from table 2, the powders according to the present invention (Ex. 7 to 14) thus prove to satisfy a combination of properties, such as flexibility and gloss. They all give coatings with a very good surface aspect, comparable to nowadays standard outdoor powders (Comparative example 15). As clearly appears from comparative example 16 no flexibility is obtained for a coating based on a  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide hardener and a carboxyl group containing isophthalic-rich polyester where no linear chain aliphatic diol is used

Moreover it has been proven that polyester resins answering a composition as claimed in this invention, allow for paint coating without any defects or pinholing at a thickness of up to 200  $\mu\text{m}$ . Thus, powder formulations answering the examples 7 to 14, allow for paint films of 200  $\mu\text{m}$  with outstanding flow and without showing any pinhole or other defect.

Besides an outstanding flexibility, flow and degassing properties, the powder coating compositions of the present invention prove to satisfy an excellent outdoor resistance comparable to or better than the currently used nowadays commercial polyester based powders.

In table 3, the relative 60° gloss values, recorded every 400 hours, according to ASTM D523, is reported for the coating obtained from example 9, 11 and 13, according to the invention, and submitted to the Q-UV accelerated-weathering test. In the same table are given, by way of comparison, the weathering results for the coatings obtained from example 15 and 16, derived from commercial resins.

In this table only gloss reductions until 50% of the maximum value are mentioned. Weathering measurements are conducted in a very severe environment, i.e. the Q-UV accelerated weathering tester (Q-Panel Co) according to ASTM G53-88 (standard practice for operating light and water exposure apparatus - fluorescent UV/condensation type - for exposure of non metallic materials).

For this table, coated panels have been subjected to the intermittent effects of condensation (4 hours at 50°C) as well as the damaging effects of sunlight simulated by fluorescent UV-A lamps (340 nm,  $I_{\text{UV-A}} = 0.77 \text{ W/m}^2/\text{nm}$ ) (8 hours at 60°C). For this type of lamps a good correlation with natural sunlight is observed, contrary to the UV-B 313 nm lamps, where unwanted or unnatural chemical reactions are induced, as described in "Analysis of Test Methods for UV Durability Predictions of Polymer Coatings" from Courtaulds Coatings Ltd. as presented during the XX<sup>th</sup> International Conference in Organic Coatings/Science and Technology (Athens, Greece, 07/94) or as described in the Technical Bulletin L8006 from Q-Panel or by N. Patel, JOCCA 3, 104, (1991).

The panels used in the Q-UV are chromated aluminium ones.

Table 3

Hours	UV-A (340 nm, I = 0.77 W/m <sup>2</sup> /nm)				
	example 9	example 11	example 13	example 15	example 16
0	100	100	100	100	100
400	99	100	100	99	99
800	99	100	100	88	99
1200	98	99	100	74	97
1600	97	98	100	69	97
2000	95	97	99	63	95
2400	91	95	97	26	92
2800	82	92	96		86
3200	81	88	94		80
3600	73	82	90		80
4000	66	83	88		73
4400	61	86	87		76
4800	50	86	85		69
5200	48	86	84		75
5600	47	86	88		68
6000	46	85	88		60
6400	43	89	88		54
6800	41	91	88		57
7200	33	91	89		71
7600		91	91		66
8000		89	95		50
8400		87	95		50
8800		77	94		47
9200		50	87		45
9600		39	80		43
10000		27	66		41
10400		24	50		39
10800			47		35
11200			45		33
11600			43		30
12000			41		

As clearly appears from tables 2 and 3, powder compositions according to the present invention containing as a binder a combination of the carboxyl functional polyester according to the present invention, along with a  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide cross-linking agent, prove upon application and curing an unique combination of properties  
5 such as a good flexibility, outstanding flow and gloss and a remarkable weatherability.

# Claims

1. Powdered thermosetting compositions for coatings, characterised in that they consist of:

- a) a carboxylic acid group containing amorphous polyester having an acid number of from 12 to 34 mg KOH/g and prepared from a polyacid constituent comprising from 85 to 100% mole of isophthalic acid and from 0 to 15% mole of another aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic polyacid, and of a polyol constituent comprising from 0.5 to 65% mole of one or more linear chain aliphatic C4 - C16 diol, from 35 to 85% mole of neopentyl glycol, from 0 to 30% mole of another linear chain aliphatic and/or cycloaliphatic diol and from 0 to 5% mole of a polyol with 3 or more hydroxyl groups.
- b) a cross-linking agent having at least two  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide groups.

2. Powdered thermosetting compositions according to claim 1 wherein the carboxylic acid group containing polyester is characterised by
  - a number averaged molecular weight ranging from 2500 to 8600, preferably from 3300 to 7500 as measured by gel permeation chromatography (GPC)
  - a glass transition temperature  $T_g$  from 40 to 80°C and preferably from 56 to 70°C as measured by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) according to ASTM D3418 with a heating gradient of 20°C per minute
  - an ICI (cone/plate) viscosity according to ASTM D4287, measured at 200°C ranging from 5 to 15000 mPa.s

3. Powdered thermosetting compositions according to claims 1 or 2, characterised in that the 0 to 15% mole of the aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or aromatic polyacids, other than isophthalic acid is selected from fumaric acid, maleic acid, phthalic acid, terephthalic acid, 1,4-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, 1,3-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, 1,2-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, succinic acid, adipic acid, glutaric acid, pimelic acid, suberic acid, azelaic acid, sebacic acid, 1,12-dodecanedioic acid, trimellitic acid or pyromellitic acid, etc., or the corresponding anhydrides.

4. Powdered thermosetting compositions according to claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the 15 to 65% mole of linear chain aliphatic C4-C16 diols are selected from 1,4-butanediol, 1,5-pentanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, 1,7-heptanediol, 1,8-octanediol, 1,9-nonanediol, 1,10-decanediol, 1,12-dodecanediol, 1,14-tetradecandiol, 1,16-hexadecandiol, used in a mixture or alone, in that the 0 to 30% mole of the other linear chain aliphatic and/or cycloaliphatic diol is selected from ethylene glycol,



propylene glycol, 1,4-cyclohexanediol, 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol, hydrogenated Bisphenol A, and in that the 0 to 5% mole of the polyol having 3 or more hydroxyl groups is selected from trimethylolpropane, ditrimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol, used in a mixture or alone.

- 5 5. Powdered thermosetting compositions according to any of claims 1 to 4 characterised in that the carboxylic acid group containing polyester (a) is composed of a polyacid constituent comprising from 85 to 100% mole of isophthalic acid and from 0 to 15% mole of terephthalic acid and /or 1,4-  
10 cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid and of a polyol constituent comprising from 15 to 65% mole of linear chain aliphatic C4-C16 diol, preferably 1,6-hexanediol, from 35 to 85% mole of neopentyl glycol, from 0 to 30% mole of ethylene glycol and from 0 to 5% mole of trimethylolpropane.
- 15 6. Powdered thermosetting compositions according to any of claims 1 to 5, characterised in that they comprise 92 to 98 weight % of the carboxylic acid group containing amorphous polyester a) and 2 to 8% weight of the  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide cross-linking agent b).
- 20 7. Powdered thermosetting compositions according to any of claims 1 to 6, characterised in that they further comprise from 0 to 10% of UV light absorbers and/or hindered amine light stabilisers, relative to the entire composition, and the usual additives.
- 25 8. Process for coating an article, characterised in that powdered thermosetting compositions according to any of claim 1 to 7 is applied by an electrostatic or friction charging gun, or in a fluidised bed, and in that the coating thus obtained is heated at a temperature of from 140 to 250°C.
- 30 9. Entirely or partially substrate coated by the process of claim 8.

# Abstract

The present invention relates to thermosetting powder compositions comprising a mixture of an isophthalic acid rich carboxyl functionalised polyester, containing linear chain aliphatic diols, along with a  $\beta$ -hydroxyalkylamide group containing cross-  
5 linking agent.

The invention also relates to the use of said compositions for the preparation of powdered paints and varnishes for the making of coatings and to coatings obtained therewith.

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